

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
MC-02 /083 W
-----251755Z 110168 /43

R 251508Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0191
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
CINCUSNAVEUR
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, GR, TU, US
SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TO GREECE AND TURKEY

REF: ATHENS 3698

1. CRITICISM AND DISAPPOINTMENT ARE STILL BEING HEAVILY
REGISTERED AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION
WOULD SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO
TURKEY AND FOR THE U.S.-TURKEY DCA. THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION
HAS COME OUT VOCIFEROUSLY AGAINST THE PROPOSALS AND THE STORY
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REMAINS A FEATURE ITEM IN THE MEDIA WHERE REACTION HAS BEEN
STRONG, BUT NEVERTHELESS DEVOID OF MUCH OF THE HIGH EMOTIONAL
OUTCRY WITNESSED IN THE PAST. IN PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH GREEKS,
WE CONTINUED TO HEAR COMPLAINTS THAT THE U.S.U IS WRONGLY ARMING
TURKEY ANEW AND THAT THE GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IS CORRECT IN
OPPOSING THE PROPOSALS BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

2. UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER PRESIDENT, GEORGE MAVROS, ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT CRITICIZING THE ADMINISTRATION'S ACTION, SAYING THE DECISION TO ASK CONGRESS FOR MILITARY AID TO TURKEY WAS A "BITTER BLOW TO U.S. MORAL PRESTIGE AND ITS DESIRE TO BE THE LEADING POWER IN THE WESTERN WORLD." THAT WASHINGTON WAS OFFERING A SIMILAR AMOUNT OF AID TO GREECE DID NOT ALTER THE SITUATION, THE UDC LEADER ARGUED, SINCE GIVING EQUALLY TO AGGRESSOR AND VICTIM WAS INCONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ETHICS. FOR THE U.S. TO PLAY THE WORLD ROLE THAT BEFITS IT, AMERICA MUST RESTORE ITS WON PRESTIGE INTERNATIONALLY BY BASING ITS POLICIES ON UNSHAKEABLE MORAL PRINCIPLES, BE CONTINUED. MAVROS ALSO STRESSED THAT GREECE SHOULD NOT COUNT ON AN ABRUPT CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY SIMPLY BECAUSE OF A TURNOVER IN THE WHITE HOUSE, AND WARNED THAT GREECE SHOULD SAFEGUARD ITS OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS WITHOUT OVER RELIANCE ON OTHERS.

3. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU LIKEWISE LAMBASED PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION. HE COMMENTED THE GREEK PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS CONCERNING THE UNITED STATES AND CHARACTERIZED COUNSELOR NIMETZ'S CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION AS A "CYNICAL TEXT" SKILLFULLY WRITTEN BY A LEGAL EXPERT TO PRESENT A FACADE OF SEEKING PEACE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANENA. AMONG OTHER POINTS WHICH HE MADE, PAPANDREOU CALLED UPON THE GOG TO TAKE A FIRM STANCE VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. AND TO INFORM THE GREEK PEOPLE OF DEVELOPMENTS SO THEY CAN BE PREPARED TO COPE WITH FUTURE THREATS. GREECE IS NOT A "PROTECTORATE" OF THE U.S., HE EMPHASIZED, AND MUST HERSELF ENSURE HER OWN SECURITY. ILIAS ILIOU OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA) WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION, CLAIMING THAT TURKISH EXPANSIONISM WAS FED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"IMPERIALIST FORCES" WHICH SUPPORT IT. ILIOU, TOO, CALLED FOR THE PEOPLE TO BE INFORMED FULLY BY THE GOG ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS SO THAT THEY COULD BE PREPARED. COMMUNIST PARTY (KKE-EXTERIOR) SECRETARY GENERAL FLORAKIS GAVE A FRONT PAGE INTERVIEW IN THE PARTY ORGAN RIZOSPASTIS IN WHICH HE JOINED IN THE ATTACK.

4. THE PRESS SUNDAY CONTINUED TO ACCORD HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE STORY. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS EXPECTEDLY WIDELY CRITICAL. MUCH OF THE REPORTING WAS DATELINED WASHINGTON AND SPOKE OF THE ADVERSE REACTION IN THE CONGRESS AND THE MOBILIZATION OF THE GREEK-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION AGAINST NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. TODAY (APRIL 25), THE PRESS FOCUSED ON THE STATEMENTS BY THE OPPOSITION IN THEIR PRESENTATION OF DEVELOPMENTS. SIMPLE CATIONS, HEADLINES FOLLOW:

A) SUNDAY, APRIL 24: PRO-GOVERNMENT (INDEPENDENT) KATHIMERINI: "CARTER'S RELIABILITY IS TESTED BY THE CYPRUS QUESTION--THE 'NEW LINE' OF AMERICAN POLICY IS IN DANGER--REMNANTS OF THE KISSINGER ERA PUSHED THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT INTO THE PRO-

TURKISH SUGGESTION:" PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS: "THE BATTLE IN CONGRESS FOR THE AID TO TURKEY IS STARTING--PERSONALITIES WILL TESTIFY AGAINST CARTER'S PROPOSALS--CLIFFORD WAS CARRIED AWAY BY KISSINGER'S MEN;" COMMUNIST (KKE-INTERIOR) AVGHI: "AFTER CARTER'S SHIFT;" THE INTERTWINING OF TURKEY-U.S.A. IS COMING TO LIGHT--POLICY AND STRATEGIC PURSUITS."

B) MONDAY, APRIL 25: LEFTIST ELEFROTYPPIA:- "WE ARE NOT A PROTECTORATE--MAVROS: THE ARMING OF THE AGGRESSOR IS IMMORAL--PAPANDREOU: U.S., GERMANY AND RUSSIA IN FAVOR OF THE TURKS--FLORAKIS: THE PEOPLE ARE THE ONLY SOLUTION--ILIOU: END TO THE ILLUSIONS--THE GOVERNMENT ADMITS THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES;" APOYEVMATINI: "MAVROS' AND ANDREAS' STATEMENTS ABOUT THE AID TO THE TURKS--GOVERNMENT'S REPLY;" LEFTIST, OPPOSITION TA NEA: "NO TO CARTER'S PROVOCATION--OPPOSITION: G. MAVROS: AN ENORMOUS MORAL QUESTION IS CREATED--A. PAPANDREOU: MOBILIZATION OF LEADERSHIP--PEOPLE-GOVERNMENT: WE ARE GOING THROUGH 'DIFFI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CULT PHASES".

5. FOR ITS PART, THE GOG ISSUED A BRIEF STATEMENT THE EVENING OF APRIL 24 WHICH SAID: "TH GOVERNMENT, WHICH BEARS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HANDLING OF THE NATIONAL ISSUES, IS COMPELLED TO WEIGH ITS WORDS DURING THE PRESENT DELICATE AND DIFFICULT PHASE. IT DOES SO, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT AGREES OR DISAGREES WITH THE VIEWS OF THE OPPOSITION, IN ORDER NOT TO HARM THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL QUESTIONS."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS03751
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770143-1148
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770425/aaaaaurc.tel
Line Count: 149
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f1e016a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ATHENS 3698
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2710716
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE AND TURKEY
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, GR, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f1e016a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009